

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OEX, PINT, CY

SUBJECT:CYPRUS-FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

REF: A. NICOSIA 1037 B. STATE 041975

1. WE BELIEVE THAT PRESERVING PRINCIPLE AND FACT OF PARTICIPATION OF BOTH COMMUNITIES IN THE CYPRUS-FULBRIGHT PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO WARRANT AMBASSADOR'S RAISING THIS ISSUE DIRECTLY AND IN PERSON WITH DENKTASH. DEPARTMENT WANTS TO AVOID, ON ONE HAND, CANCELLATION OF ENTIRE PROGRAM AND, ON OTHER HAND, ACCEPTANCE OF TURKISH CYPRIOT DEMAND FOR AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTLY RATHER THEN THROUGH ESTABLISHED FULBRIGHT COMMISSION.

2. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO PERMIT TURKISH REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE UNDER EXISTING PROGRAM TO TERMINATE PROGRAM ALTOGETHER. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT FURTHER PERSONAL AND DIRECT EFFORT TO REACH SOME COMPROMISE PROCEDURE WITHIN GENERAL FULBRIGHT COMMISSION FRAMEWORK SHOULD BE ATTEMPTED.

3. FOLLOWING POINTS MAY BE DRAWN UPON:

A. FULBRIGHT COMMISSION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HAS SERVED BOTH COMMUNITIES OF CYPRUS WELL AND WE BELIEVE IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COMMUNITIES TO PRESERVE THIS VALUABLE PROGRAM AND THE OPPORTUNITIES IT OFFERS TO PROMISING GREEK
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AND TURKISH YOUTH ON THE ISLAND.

B. THOUGH IT OPERATES UNDER AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS, THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION ITSELF IS NOT A GOVERNMENT BODY IN ANY SENSE, AND GREAT CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER THE YEARS TO RUN THE PROGRAM WITH SCRUPULOUS REGARD FOR FAIRNESS AND TO PREVENT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS FROM INTERFERING WITH ITS WORK.

C. IN ACCORD WITH PRINCIPLES AND INTENT OF WORLD-WIDE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM, SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION HAS BEEN FAIR, FREE, AND OPEN TO ALL. TURKISH CYPRIOT PARTICIPATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A VITAL PART OF THE PROGRAM ON CYPRUS AND THE TURKISH COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN WELL REPRESENTED IN THE FINAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.

D. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF YOUR (DENKTASH) VIEWS ON HOW WE MIGHT ENSURE THE CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF BOTH COMMUNITIES IN THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM WITHIN THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF PRESENT PROCEDURES. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY IDEAS YOU MIGHT HAVE ON HOW WE CAN PREVENT THE PROGRAM, WHICH SO CLEARLY SERVES THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF BOTH COMMUNITIES, FROM BECOMING NEEDLESSLY ENTANGLED IN POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH CAN AND WILL BE WORKED OUT IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES.

4. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT DENKTASH'S VIEWS ON THIS MATTER BE REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT AND THAT NO FURTHER COMMENTS BE MADE TO DENKTASH, PENDING FURTHER GUIDANCE, REGARDING OUR REACTION TO HIS LATEST VIEWS ON THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM OR ON HOW WE INTEND TO PROCEED. INGERSOLL

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